

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /021 W

----- 045985

R 261329Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9905

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: WEST BANK MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

REF: 75 TEL AVIV 7156

1. MFA HAS PROVIDED AT OUR REQUEST HEBREW TEXT OF JORDANIAN MUNICIPALITIES LAW (LAW 29 OF 1955) AS AMENDED BY ISRAELI MILITARY GOVERNMENT ORDER MO. 627 OF DECEMBER 28, 1975. SECTION 12 DEALS WITH VOTER ELIGIBILITY AND IS THE SECTION AMENDED BY THE DELETION OF THE PREVIOUS REFERENCE IN THE JORDANIAN LAW TO "MALE SEX". HEBREW VERSION OF SECTION 12 (AS PROVIDED TO US AND AS TRANSLATED BY EMBASSY) READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

...3. HE HAS PAID PROPERTY TAX WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OR MUNICIPAL EDUCATION TAX OR A BUSINESS LICENSE FEE OR ANY OTHER MUNICIPAL TAX IN AN AMOUNT OF NO LESS THAN ONE DINAR FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN LIABLE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS; AND IF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY ONE OR MORE TENANT AND EDUCATION TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX IN RESPECT OF THAT PROPERTY IN RESPECT OF THE AFORESAID PERIOD HAS BEEN PAID, THEN, IN ADDITION TO THE PERSON WHO HAS PAID THE TAXES AS AFORESAID, EACH

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SINGLE TENANT (OTHER THAN THE PERSON WHO HAS PAID

THE TAXES AS AFORESAID) WHO LIVED IN THAT
PROPERTY ON THE DATE PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER
FOR THE COMPILATION OR ADJUSTMENT OF THE VOTER'S
REGISTER UNDER THIS LAW SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE PAID
TAXES IN AN AMOUNT OBTAINED BY DIVIDING THE TOTAL
AMOUNT OF THE TAXES BY THE NUMBER OF SINGLE TENANTS;...
END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: WORDING OF TAX QUALIFICATION HAS APPARENTLY
GIVEN RISE TO STILL UNRESOLVED CONFUSION CONCERNING LE-
GALITY OF "MULTIPLE VOTING" BY WEST BANKERS IN SPRING
ELECTIONS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF
SECTION 12, PARA 3 OF OFFICIAL ARABIC VERSION OF
JORDANIAN ELECTORAL LAW READS AS ABOVE. MFA HAS
DECLINED TO PROVIDE US WITH ARABIC VERSION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION LAW, LOCAL ELECTIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV00640
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760030-0754
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760120/aaaaarsw.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 7156
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEST BANK MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006